

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1109
By Hill

A RESOLUTION to recognize Arthur Allen Countiss, Jr., on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of service; and

WHEREAS, Arthur Allen Countiss, Jr., has served with acumen and alacrity in the business of radio and television broadcasting; following more than fifty distinguished years in the communications industry, he is taking a much deserved retirement, having earned the respect of his associates and his staff alike for the exceptional quality of his service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Countiss graduated from Abingdon High School in Abingdon, Virginia, in 1945; he received his bachelor's degree in 1957 from Emory and Henry College in Emory, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, a true patriot, Art Countiss served from 1951 to 1953 in the United States Signal Corps, whose mission is to provide seamless, secure, consistent, and dynamic worldwide information systems and communication networks for real-time command and control of Army, Joint, and Combined Forces in tactical, garrison, and strategic operations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Countiss worked for WCBY Radio and Television from 1953 to 1973, where he served in many diverse capacities, including as the first News Anchor on WCBY-TV; and

WHEREAS, from 1973 to 1979, Art Countiss served as the Assistant to United States Congressman William C. Wampler; he then took a position as the News Director for the Tri-Cities Radio Group, where he remained until his 1998 campaign for the Tennessee State House, 6th District; and

WHEREAS, from 1998 until his retirement this year, Mr. Countiss served as the distinguished News Director for WHCB 91.5 FM, WPWT 870 AM, and WHGG 1090 AM; and

WHEREAS, his formidable contributions to his profession have extended beyond the newsroom; he twice served as President of the Tennessee Radio-Television News Directors, and is a member of the Association of Tennessee Associated Press (AP) Broadcasters; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Mr. Countiss was named the AP Tennessee Broadcaster of the Year in 1990, and is recognized as the "Dean of Journalists" in Bristol, Kingsport, and Johnson City; and

WHEREAS, Art Countiss is currently a certified Lay Speaker with the United Methodist Church, and a Chaplain of the Honor Guard of the VFW in Bristol; and

WHEREAS, he is most grateful for the love and companionship of his devoted wife, Patsy; and

WHEREAS, Art Countiss exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Countiss has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues in the broadcast industry, his staff, and his community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize Arthur Allen Countiss, Jr., for his meritorious service to the citizens of the Tri-Cities area and to the great State of Tennessee, and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.